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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2002

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NORFOLK, VIRGINIA – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today that Marysol Flores, 27, of Norfolk, was convicted Thursday by a jury in U.S. District Court in Norfolk of conspiring to possess and utter counterfeit securities.

Flores was part of a ring which passed approximately 110 counterfeit checks worth more than \$110,000.00 between September 2000 and April 2001. The checks, which were computer generated and appeared genuine, were made out to fictitious people and drawn on the accounts of actual local companies, including Sentara Healthcare and Golden Corral. They were cashed at various branches of six local banks. Five other suspects connected to the ring have previously pleaded guilty and have either been sentenced or are awaiting sentence.

Flores, described as the organizer and leader of the ring, actually used her computer to manufacture the bogus checks and then distributed them to other conspirators with instructions to cash the checks with the use of false identification cards. After the jury returned its guilty verdict, District Judge Jerome B. Friedman ordered that Flores, who had been out on bond, be immediately taken into custody. Her sentencing is set for December 16, 2002, at which time she

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The case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Chesapeake Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Alan M. Salsbury prosecuted the case.